







Throughout the country there are many old flour mills still standing. This one was powered by water.

less than 3 minutes. It took the farmer of 1700 three days to harvest 1 acre (.4 ha). Today's wheat farmer harvests more than 100 acres (40 ha) in the same time.

And the acres are richer in wheat, too. That is because today's farmers use fertilizer. They also use better seed. In 1700 one wheat seed would grow a single stalk with a few kernels on it. Today one improved seed often yields fifty stalks. Each stalk will have from thirty to fifty kernels. In other words, one seed today produces more than two hundred times as much wheat as one seed produced in 1700.

Modern mills. After the harvest, the wheat is sent to huge *grain elevators*. The picture on page 291 shows how large they are. The wheat stays there

until it is sent to the mill. The wheat may end up in a mill several hundred miles from the farm on which it was raised. There is no longer a mill in every small community. Today there are only about 225 mills in the whole country. All of them are run by electricity. Those 225 mills grind flour for the entire country. One hundred years ago, there were more than 22,000 mills. That is about a hundred times as many as today, and they did not grind nearly as much wheat.

The map below shows where wheat is grown today. It also shows the cities where most of the milling is done. The city of Buffalo is far from where most wheat is raised. How is it possible for Buffalo to be the largest miller of wheat? Why don't we need mills in every community now?